

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Steel alloy according to claim [[1]] 17, wherein C = 0.42-0.60 % by weight.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Steel alloy according to claim [[1]] 17, wherein Si = 0.15-0.80 % by weight.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Steel alloy according to claim [[1]] 17, wherein Mn = 0.4-0.8 % by weight.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Steel alloy according to claim [[1]] 17, wherein Cr = 13-15 % by weight.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Steel alloy according to claim [[1]] 17, wherein Mo = 2.6-4.0 % by weight.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Steel alloy according to claim [[1]] 17, wherein the steel alloy comprises carbides, nitrides and/or carbonitrides, wherein a maximal diameter of the carbides, nitrides and/or carbonitrides does not exceed 5 μm .

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Knife comprising the steel alloy according to claim [[1]] 17.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Cutting edges for either dry or wet shaving comprising the steel alloy according to claim [[1]] 17.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Cutting tool for surgical applications comprising the steel alloy according to claim [[1]] 17.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): Doctor blade or creping blade comprising the steel alloy according to claim [[1]] 17.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): Steel alloy according to claim 2, wherein C = 0.42-0.50 % by weight.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): Steel alloy according to claim 3, wherein Si = 0.15-0.55 % by weight.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): Steel alloy according to claim 4, wherein Mn = 0.4-0.7 % by weight.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): Steel alloy according to claim 5, wherein Cr = 14-15 % by weight.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): Steel alloy according to claim 6, wherein Mo = 2.6-3.0 % by weight.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A steel alloy, comprising:

a composition including (in % by weight):

C 0.40-0.60

Si 0.1-1.0

Mn 0.3-1.0

Cr 12-15

Mo 2.5–4.0

Ni 0–1.0

Co 0–4.0

N 0.15–0.20

Cu <0.1

balance Fe as well as normally occurring impurities;

a hardness > 56 HRC; and

a value for PRE > 25, wherein $PRE = \% Cr + 3.3 \cdot \% Mo + 16 \cdot \% N$.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The steel alloy of claim 17, wherein the hardness is attained by hardening without deep freezing.

Claim 19 (New): The steel alloy of claim 17, wherein Co = about 0.5 % by weight.

Claim 20 (New): The steel alloy of claim 17, wherein Co = 1.0 – 2.0 % by weight.

Claim 21 (New): The steel alloy of claim 17, wherein Co = 0.5 to 2.0 % by weight.

Claim 22 (New): The steel alloy of claim 17, wherein (C + N) in weight % is greater than 0.55 by weight.

Claim 23 (New): The steel alloy of claim 17, wherein a ration of carbon to nitrogen is greater than two.